

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 310285
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:CASC

SUBJECT:TRAVEL ADVISORY STATE OF SINALOA, MEXICO

REF: MAZATLAN 538 AND 539; GISE-MCANINCH AND DREYFUSS-
MCANINCH TELCONS DECEMBER 23

1. BASED ON ABOVE REFERENCED TELEGRAMS DEPARTMENT BELIEVES
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ISSUE PUBLIC TRAVEL ADVISORY ON
MOTOR TRAVEL IN AND THROUGH THE STATE OF SINALOA. BELOW IS
TEXT OF PROPOSED STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED AS SOON AS POSS-
IBLE. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE CABLE
WHETHER IT CONCURS IN TEXT AND IN THE NECESSITY FOR ISSUING
TRAVEL ADVISORY. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"WHILE LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS HAVE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE
VACATIONS IN MEXICO AND CAN EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO DO SO,
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PAGE 02 STATE 310285

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED
ABOUT THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN MOTORISTS TRAVELLING SPECIFI-
CALLY IN OR THROUGH THE STATE OF SINALOA IN WESTERN MEXICO.
THE AMERICAN CONSULATE-IN MAZATLAN HAS REPORTED THAT SINCE
MAY 1976 THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN FIFTEEN SEPARATE
INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE HIGHWAY ROBBERY OF AMERICAN TRAVELL-

ERS BY ARMED BANDITS MOSTLY ON MEXICAN HIGHWAY 15 IN THE STATE OF SINALOA NEAR THE CITY OF CULIACAN. THE BANDITS HAVE GENERALLY TAKEN ALL OF THE MOTORISTS' POSSESSIONS, INCLUDING THEIR VEHICLES. RECENTLY, AN AMERICAN WAS FOUND MURDERED ON HIGHWAY 15 AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE WAS KILLED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO RESIST SUCH AN ATTACK. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS, TWO MORE AMERICAN MOTORISTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO IS QUITE CONCERNED WITH THE SITUATION. THE GOVERNOR OF SINALOA REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL. AS A RESULT MEXICAN ARMY UNITS HAVE BEEN PATROLLING THE HIGHWAYS IN SINALOA SINCE DECEMBER 8 AND MAY BE SUCCESSFUL IN CONTROLLING THE SITUATION. IN THE MEANTIME HOWEVER BECAUSE OF THESE CONTINUING INCIDENTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISES AMERICANS AGAINST TRAVEL BY MOTOR VEHICLE IN OR THROUGH THE STATE OF SINALOA. THIS CONDITION IS CONFINED TO THE STATE OF SINALOA AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO AFFECT TRAVEL IN THE REST OF MEXICO."

2. AS SOON AS EMBASSY'S CONCURRENCE IS RECEIVED DEPARTMENT WILL NOTIFY MEXICAN EMBASSY HERE AND RELEASE THE STATEMENT ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 27.
KISSINGER

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